AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing cancer or a precancerous growth in a mammalian tissue, wherein the cancer or precancerous growth is associated with undesirable expression or activity of ICT1024, comprising administering an inhibitor of ICT1024 polypeptide, DNA or RNA, wherein the inhibitor reduces the expression or activity of the ICT1024 polypeptide, DNA or RNA.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the tissue is breast tissue, colon tissue, prostate tissue, skin tissue, bone tissue, parotid gland tissue, pancreatic tissue, kidney tissue, uterine cervix tissue, lymph node tissue, or ovarian tissue.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the inhibitor comprises a nucleic acid molecule.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the inhibitor is an siRNA, an shRNA, an antisense RNA, an antisense DNA, a decoy molecule, a decoy DNA, a double stranded DNA, a single-stranded DNA, a complexed DNA, an encapsulated DNA, a viral DNA, a plasmid DNA, a naked RNA, an

encapsulated RNA, a viral RNA, a double stranded RNA, a molecule capable of generating RNA interference, or combinations thereof.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is double stranded and has a length of about one hundred base pairs or less.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the inhibitor comprises an siRNA or an shRNA or a nucleic acid molecule encoding an siRNA or an shRNA.

40. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 33, wherein the inhibitor comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding an siRNA or an shRNA, and wherein the nucleic acid molecule is associated with a liposome, a cationic polymer, ~~PolyTran™ technology,~~ a receptor-mediated delivery system, a plasmid, a cosmid, a bacteriophage, or a viral vector.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein the viral vector is a retroviral or adenoviral vector.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the inhibitor is an siRNA or an shRNA, and wherein the inhibitor causes post-transcriptional silencing of ICT1024 in the mammalian tissue.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the mammalian tissue is human tissue .

44-50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein ICT1024 comprises a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of: (a) a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 37; (b) a polynucleotide set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 58, 60, 61, 62, 64, 66, 68 or 69; and (c) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide that has at least 90% sequence identity to the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 37.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein ICT1024 comprises a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide that has at least 95% sequence identity to the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO: 37.

53-56. (Cancelled)

57. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing ICT1024 expression in a mammalian tissue, comprising administering an inhibitor that interacts with ICT1024 DNA or RNA and thereby reduces ICT1024-expression.

58. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 57, wherein the tissue is breast tissue, colon tissue, prostate tissue, skin tissue, bone tissue, parotid gland tissue, pancreatic tissue, kidney tissue, uterine cervix tissue, lymph node tissue, or ovarian tissue.

59. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 57, wherein the inhibitor is an siRNA, an shRNA, an antisense RNA, an antisense DNA, a decoy

molecule, a decoy DNA, a double stranded DNA, a single-stranded DNA, a complexed DNA, an encapsulated DNA, a viral DNA, a plasmid DNA, a naked RNA, an encapsulated RNA, a viral RNA, a double stranded RNA, a molecule capable of generating RNA interference, or combinations thereof.

60. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 57, wherein the inhibitor is a nucleic acid molecule that is double stranded and has a length of about one hundred base pairs or less.

61. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 57, wherein the inhibitor comprises an siRNA or an shRNA or a nucleic acid molecule encoding an siRNA or an shRNA.

62. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 57, wherein the inhibitor comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a siRNA or an shRNA, and wherein the nucleic acid molecule is associated with a liposome, a cationic polymer, ~~PolyTran™ technology,~~ a receptor-mediated delivery system, a plasmid, a cosmid, a bacteriophage, or a viral vector.

63. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 62, wherein the viral vector is a retroviral or adenoviral vector.

64. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 57, wherein the inhibitor is an siRNA or an shRNA, and wherein the inhibitor causes post-transcriptional silencing of ICT1024 in the mammalian tissue.

65. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 57, wherein the mammalian tissue is human tissue.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 33 or 57, wherein the inhibitor forms a triple helix with a ICT1024 encoding nucleic acid.

67. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37 or 59, wherein the inhibitor is an siRNA molecule and is delivered in the form of a naked oligonucleotide.

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Cancelled)

70. (Previously Presented) A method of inhibiting *in vivo* expression of ICT1024 by administering siRNA that specifically binds and inhibits ICT1024 to a patient in need thereof.

71. (Cancelled)

72. (Cancelled)

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, wherein the patient is a human.

74. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is double stranded and has a length of up to 25 base pairs.

75. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 57, wherein the inhibitor is a nucleic acid molecule that is double stranded and has a length of up to 25 base pairs.

76. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 70, wherein the siRNA is part of a complex comprising a cationic polymer ~~and PolyTran™ technology~~.

77. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein the cancer is breast cancer, melanoma, or head and neck cancer.

78. (New) The method according to any one of claims 37, 59, or 70, wherein the siRNA comprises an antisense strand that is complementary to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 or SEQ ID NO: 22.

79. (New) The method according to claim 33 or claim 57, wherein the inhibitor is administered directly to the tissue.

80. (New) A method for reducing ICT1024 expression in a cell, comprising administering an inhibitor of ICT1024 polypeptide, DNA or RNA, wherein the inhibitor reduces the expression of the ICT1024 polypeptide, DNA or RNA.

81. (New) A method for increasing apoptosis in an ICT1024-expressing cell, comprising the step of contacting the cell with an ICT1024 inhibitor.

82. (New) A method for reducing proliferation of a cancer cell, comprising the step of contacting the cell with an ICT1024 inhibitor.

83. (New) A method for reducing growth of an ICT1024-expressing tumor, comprising the step of contacting the tumor with an ICT1024 inhibitor.

84. (New) An antisense nucleic acid molecule for targeting ICT1024, wherein the antisense nucleic acid comprises a sequence that is complementary to a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 or SEQ ID NO: 22.

85. (New) A double-stranded nucleic acid molecule comprising the antisense nucleic acid of claim 81 and its corresponding sense strand.